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SOVIETS OPEN OFFENSIVE IN SECTOR WEST OF ODER

Majority of Attacks Smashed By German Counter-Barrage in Frankfurt-Kuestrin Area

Domei

BERLIN, April 16.—The Soviets opened up a general offensive in the Frankfurt-Kuestrin sector of the Oder this morning, and according to the German high command's communique the entire front has been set ablaze. The Soviet offensive was started at 3:50 a.m. today between the confluence of the Neisse and the Oder and Oderbruch following a heavy artillery barrage and using powerful infantry, armored and air forces.

The Germans retaliated with an intensive barrage and brought the first attempts to a halt. According to reports so far at hand, the Soviets forced a local breach in the German lines but all other attacks broke down under heavy German counter-barrage.

A later announcement by the military spokesman said that the Red Army has driven 20 kilometers west of the Oder to reach the Seelow area and is tonight 45 kilometers from Berlin on the direct road from Kuestrin. He added that the offensive front now takes in the area north of Kuestrin to Fuerstenberg as well as from Forst to Muskau. The Soviets also succeeded in establishing a bridgehead near Schwedt on the lower Oder. Grim fighting is in progress there.

The Soviets also launched major attacks near Forst in the Lausitz area on the Neisse this morning. All the attacks were beaten back, however.

Also in upper Silesia, fierce fighting broke out southeast and southwest of Ratibor yesterday following heavy aerial attacks. The Germans repelled the onslaught by seven infantry divisions and numerous tank packs before they could reach the main German lines.

In the Vienna area, the Soviets penetrated deeper into the German lines and Sankt Polten was lost. In Vienna proper Soviet formations succeeded in removing the German bridgehead south of the Danube, and the German frontline was subsequently taken back to the northeastern part of the city.

Big Offensive Launched

Domei

STOCKHOLM, April 16.—As all news agencies announced the opening of the big Soviet offensive west of the Oder against Berlin, Jon Kimche, Reuters military correspondent, predicted that the Soviet commander is directing his first blows against Schoerner's main concentration area between Berlin and Dresden and not yet against the capital itself.

At Forst where one of the main Soviet attacks has been launched, the Soviets are less than 140 kilometers from Patton's army at Dessau, Kimche reflected, adding that a meeting between the two due south of Berlin is possible within the next 72 hours.

Canadians Reach North Sea

Domei

BERLIN, April 16.—The Canadian 1st army completed a breakthrough to the North Sea by way of Groningen yesterday while to the east Simpson's American 9th army lined up for an apparent attack on Berlin between Magdeburg and Wittenberge located at both ends of the Elbe loop fronting the German capital.

The main weight of the attack will most likely be carried by Simpson's right wing, but in this sector it is being held up by stiffening German opposition at Magdeburg. The American bridgehead established on the eastern bank of the Elbe just south of Magdeburg has been wiped out. At present Simpson is sending all his available forces to his second bridgehead near the Saale mouth.

Further south in central Germany, the American 1st army shot another wedge to the Elbe after by-passing Halle and Leipzig. These formations, however, are meeting with stiff opposition from the two towns. Moreover, a breakthrough by the left wing of the American 3rd army along the highway leading from Gera to Dresden was checked at Chemnitz. The situation, however, remains acute since the enemy has gained the south flank of the German defense ring around Leipzig and is showing a tendency of moving beyond the Mulde.

In the Ruhr pocket, meanwhile, the Germans could not withstand combined Anglo-American pressure. Enemy forces yesterday forced a breakthrough on a narrow front to the Ruhr from the south with strong forces. The town of Luedenscheidt was lost, but grim street-fighting is continuing in the ruins of Hagen.

Foreign Ministers Of 'Big Five' to Meet At Washington Soon

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 16.—A meeting of the "big five" foreign ministers will probably be held in Washington this coming weekend at which time a solution of the Polish problem is hoped to result, a Washington dispatch said today. At the meeting which is expected also to lay the foundation for the San Francisco Conference the foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, Chungking and the French Provisional Government will attend. These include, Edward Stettinius, Anthony Eden, Vyacheslav Molotov, T. V. Soong and George Bidault respectively.

WARTIME FOOD PROGRAM OF U.S. EXPLAINED BY AP

Basic Principle Said That Provisions Must be Used to Help Win War

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 15.—An Associated Press commentary today stated that the basic principle of the U.S. Government's wartime food program is that American food must be used to help win the war and that it is considered a good military strategy.

Ovid A. Martin, writer of the article, began with the examination of foreign shipments starting with the lend-lease. The Government, he said, believes it to be good military strategy for the United States to send supplies to Great Britain and the Soviet Union. These countries have not produced enough to keep their armies fighting. Hence the Government believes the American supplies helped to keep British and Soviet soldiers fighting.

The correspondent outlined three main reasons for foreign relief feeding; firstly, food has been promised, secondly, food must be sent for humanitarian reasons, and thirdly, the United States must help for reasons of self-interest.

The promise of food relief, he said, was made of cornerstones of American wartime food program. This promise had its military aspect. It was designed to keep up the spirit of resistance and to encourage sabotage of the enemy.

The supplying of food for humanitarian reasons was emphasized recently by the late President Roosevelt in a statement calling for a further belt-tightening at home. Officials believe that Europe will need vast quantities of food and farm implements during the next 12 to 18 months if starvation is to be prevented. Even in peacetime, the continent does not produce enough to feed itself. It normally imports between ten and 20 per cent of its food materials.

Martin stated that deficiency is much greater now. Some experts believe it will take Europe two or three years to get back to prewar production.

The supplying of food for reasons of self-interest is in the opinion of many, most important, the AP correspondent continued. Officials realize that the people with empty stomachs do not tend to be wise or even-tempered. They are not likely to build durable political institutions or to plan soundly for the future. Thus the European continent, seething with chaos and hunger, could endanger the future of the United States.

Officials explain still further that diseases, epidemics and plagues often follow in the wake of hunger. Such diseases could easily spread to the American soldiers of occupation and even to the United States.

Martin stressed that the Government is set to provide relief but he remained in doubt of its ability to do so. Because of the world-wide shortage of most foods and because of the heavier military requirements that ability may not be sufficient to prevent suffering next winter.

Hurley Reaches Moscow

Domei

MOSCOW, April 16.—Major General Patrick Hurley, U.S. Ambassador to Chungking, arrived here today on his way to Chungking from Washington and after conferring with W. Averril Harriman, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, is expected to proceed to Chungking.

Forming Finnish Cabinet

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, April 12.—Finnish President Field Marshal Baron Karl Gustav von Mannerheim has directed Finnish Premier Juho Paasikivi to form a new Government, the Finnish radio reported today. Paasikivi handed in the resignation of his Government on April 9.

His Majesty Grants Imperial Rescript, ¥10,000,000 as Relief Fund for Raid Victims

His Majesty the Emperor, graciously and deeply solicitous for the welfare of His people who have become the victims of wanton enemy air attacks, on Tuesday granted an Imperial Rescript and ¥10,000,000 to be used as a relief fund.

To receive the Imperial Rescript and the gracious gift, Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki proceeded to the Imperial Palace at a little after 9:30 a.m. The Imperial Rescript was received with awe and trepidation by the Prime Minister from His Imperial Majesty, who entered the Front Throne Room at 10 a.m. attended by Grand Chamberlain Admiral Hisanori Fujita and other close attendants.

The money grant was received later from Tsuneo Matsudaira, Imperial Household Minister, by the Prime Minister, who left the Imperial Palace with the vow to do everything for the relief of the air raid victims, to drive forward for the increase of war power, to destroy the bestial enemy and to place the Imperial Mind at ease.

In the Imperial Rescript, it was stated in effect: "The war situation is increasingly grave and the enemy raids on Our soil have become more bitter. We are deeply grieved to see Our subjects lose their lives, suffer from wounds, lose their property and be parted from their work and their livelihood menaced. We hereby donate from the Privy Purse to have the sum used as a fund for relief work. Our officials are commanded to embody Our will well and to aid the people in an effective manner."

In connection with the latest act of Imperial solicitude, it is recalled that His Imperial Majesty has been deeply concerned for the welfare of the people under enemy raids. His Imperial Majesty has dispatched His close attendants to the stricken areas after each raid and on March 18 personally visited the devastated area in Tokyo to learn the situation at close hand and to feel deeply for His people.

TRUMAN AVERS STRATEGY WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED

Asks Support of American People for Creation of Sound International Body

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 16.—President Harry Truman, in his first address to a joint session of Congress today, declared that the grand strategy of the United Nations "must and will remain unchanged and unhampered" and at the same time asserted that "our demand has been and it remains—unconditional surrender," according to a Washington dispatch.

Pointing out that within an hour after he had taken the oath of office he had announced that the San Francisco Conference would proceed, President Truman said the task of creating a sound international organization is complicated and difficult but that "without such an organization, the right of man on earth cannot be protected." The machinery for the just settlement of international differences must be found, he said.

"I appeal to every American, regardless of party, race, creed or color to support our, efforts to build a strong and lasting United Nations organization," President Truman said.

Text of Speech

The full text of President Truman's speech follows:

"It is with a heavy heart that I stand before you, my friends and colleagues in the Congress of the United States. Only yesterday we laid to rest the mortal remains of our most beloved President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. At a time like this words are inadequate; the most eloquent tribute would be to reverence in silence.

"Yet in this decisive hour when world events are moving so rapidly, our silence might be misunderstood and might give comfort to our enemies. In His infinite wisdom the Almighty God has seen fit to take from us a great man who loved and was beloved by all humanity. No man could possibly fill the tremendous void left by the passing of that noble soul. No words can ease the aching hearts of untold millions of every race, creed and color. The world has lost a heroic champion of justice and freedom.

"Tragic fate has thrust upon us grave responsibilities. We must carry on. Our departed leader never looked backward. He looked forward and moved forward. That is what he would want us to do. That is what Americans will do.

"So much blood has already been shed for ideals which we cherish and for which Franklin Delano Roosevelt lived and died that we dare not permit even momentary pause in the hard fight for victory.

"Today the entire world is looking to America for enlightened leadership to peace and progress. Such leadership requires vision, courage, tolerance. It can be provided only by the United Nations' deep devotion to the highest ideals.

"I call upon all Americans to help me keep our nation united in defence of those ideals which have been so eloquently proclaimed by Franklin Roosevelt.

"I want in turn to assure my fellow Americans and all of those who love peace and liberty throughout the world that I will support and defend those ideals with all my strength and with all my heart. That is my duty and I shall not shirk it.

"So that there can be no possible misunderstanding, both Germany and Japan can be certain beyond any shadow of a doubt that America will continue to fight for freedom until no vestige of resistance remains.

Hard Fighting Ahead

"We are deeply conscious of the fact that much hard fighting is still ahead of us. Having to pay such a heavy price to make complete victory certain, America will never become a party to any plan for partial victory. To settle for merely another temporary respite would surely jeopardize the future security of all the world.

"Our demand has been and it remains—unconditional surrender. We will not traffic with breakers of peace on terms of peace. The responsibility for the making of peace—and it is a very grave responsibility—must rest with the defenders of peace, the United Nations. We are not unconscious of the dictates of humanity. We do not wish to see unnecessary or unjustified suffering. But laws of God and of man have been violated and the guilty must not go unpunished. Nothing shall shake our determination to punish war criminals even though we must pursue them to the ends of the earth.

"Lasting peace can never be secured if we permit our dangerous opponents to plot future wars with impunity at any mountain retreat—however distant. In this shrinking world it is futile to seek safety behind barriers. Real security will be found only in law and in justice.

"Here in America we have labored long and hard to achieve social order worthy of our great heritage. In our time tremendous progress has been made toward a really democratic way of life. Let me assure the forward-looking people of America that there will be no relaxation in our efforts to improve the lot of the common people.

"In difficult days ahead we shall face problems of staggering proportions. However with the faith of our fathers in our hearts we fear no future. On battlefields we have frequently faced overwhelming odds—and won. At home the Americans will not be less resolute. We shall never cease our struggle to preserve and maintain our American way of life.

"At this moment, America, along with her brave allies is paying again a heavy price for the defense of our freedom. With characteristic energy, we are assisting in the liberation of entire nations. Gradually the shackles of slavery are being broken by the forces of freedom.

"All of us are praying for a speedy victory. Every day peace is delayed costs a terrible toll.

Strategy Determined

"The grand strategy of a united nations war has been determined—due in no small measure to the vision of our departed Commander-in-Chief. We are now carrying out our part of that strategy under the able direction of Admiral Leahy, General Marshall, Admiral King, General Arnold, General Eisenhower, Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur. I want the entire world to know that this direction must and will remain unchanged and unhampered.

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. America will never forget their sacrifices. Because of these sacrifices, the dawn of justice and freedom throughout the world slowly casts its gleam upon the horizon.

"Our forefathers came to our rugged shores in search of religious tolerance, political freedom and economic opportunity. For those fundamental rights, they risked their lives. We well know today that such rights can be preserved only by constant vigilance, the eternal price of liberty.

"Within an hour after I took the oath of office, I announced that the San Francisco Conference would proceed. We will face the problems of peace with the same courage that we have faced and mastered the problems of war. In the memory of those who have made the supreme sacrifice—in memory of our fallen President—we shall not fail. It is not enough to yearn for peace. We must work, and if necessary, fight for it.

"The task of creating a sound international organization is complicated and difficult. Yet, without such an organization, the right of man on earth cannot be protected. The machinery for the just settlement of international differences must be found. Without such machinery, the entire world will have to remain an armed camp. The world will be doomed to deadly conflict, devoid of hope for real peace.

"Fortunately, people have retained hope for durable peace. Thoughtful people have always had faith that ultimately justice must triumph. Past experience surely indicates that, without justice, an enduring peace becomes impossible.

"In bitter despair, some people have come to believe that wars are inevitable. With tragic fatalism, they insist that as wars have always been, of necessity wars always will be. To such defeatism, men and women of good will must not and cannot yield. The outlook for humanity is not so hopeless.

Stresses Hope

"During the dark hours of this horrible war, entire nations were kept going by something intangible—hope. When warned that abject submission offered the only salvation against overwhelming power, hope showed the way to victory. Hope has become the secret weapon of the forces of liberation. Aggressors could not dominate the human mind. As long as hope remains, the spirit of man will never be crushed.

"But hope alone was not and is not sufficient to avert war. We must not only hope, but we must have faith enough to work with other peace-loving nations to maintain the peace. Hope was not enough to beat back the aggressors as long as peace-loving nations were unwilling to come to each others' defense. The aggressors were beaten back only when the peace-loving nations united to defend themselves.

"If wars in the future are to be prevented the nations must be united in their determination to keep the peace under law. Nothing is more essential to the future peace of the world than continued cooperation of the nations which had to muster the force necessary to defeat the conspiracy of the Axis powers to dominate the world.

"While these great states have a special responsibility to enforce the peace, their responsibility is based upon the obligations resting upon all states, large and small, not to use force in international relations except in the defense of law. The responsibility of the great states is to serve and not to dominate the world.

"To build the foundation of enduring peace we must not only work in harmony with our friends abroad, but we must have the united support of our own people. Even the most experienced pilot cannot bring a ship safely into harbor unless he has the full cooperation of the crew. For the benefit of all, every individual must do his duty.

"I appeal to every American, regardless of party, race, creed or color, to support our efforts to build a strong and lasting United nations civilization.

Asks Help of Congress

"You the members of the Congress surely know how I feel. Only with your help can I hope to complete one of the greatest tasks ever assigned to a public servant. With divine guidance, and your help, we will find the new passage to a far better world, a kindly and friendly world, with just and lasting peace. With confidence, I am depending upon all of you.

"To destroy greedy tyrants with dreams of world domination, we cannot continue in successive generations to sacrifice our finest youth. In the name of human decency and civilization, a more rational method of deciding national differences must and will be found.

"America must assist suffering humanity back along the path of peaceful progress. This will require time and tolerance. We shall need also an abiding faith in the people of the kind of faith and courage which Franklin D. Roosevelt always had.

"Today, America has become one of the most powerful forces for good on earth. We must keep it so. We have achieved a world leadership which does not depend solely upon our military and naval might.

"We have learned to fight with other nations in common defense of our freedom. We must now learn to live with other nations for our mutual good. We must learn to trade more with other nations so that there may be, for our mutual advantage, increased production, increased employment and better standards of living throughout the world. May we Americans all live up to our glorious heritage. In that way, America may well lead the world to peace and prosperity.

"At this moment, I have in my heart a prayer. As I assume my heavy duties, I humbly pray to Almighty God, in the words of Solomon: 'Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?' I ask only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord and my people."

70 B-29'S SENT CRASHING IN KEIHIN BATTLE SUNDAY

Additional Planes Shot Down Revealed by Later Check-Up, Says Imperial Headquarters

Attesting to their furious and effective counterattacking operations, the Japanese Anti-Air Raid Units shot down a total of 70 B-29's out of the approximately 200 Mariana-based planes that raided the southwestern part of the Keihin district on Sunday night according to a communique issued by the Imperial Headquarters at 6 p.m. on Monday, based on later investigations.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
6 p.m. April 16

"It has become known that the number of aircraft shot down on the the night of April 15, when the enemy planes raided the Southwestern part of the Keihin District, further increased to 70, according to later investigation."

Raiders Came Singly

After a lapse of one day, the Mariana-based U.S. air forces, aggregating about 200 B-29 bombers, again raided the southwestern part of the Keihin district for about two and a half hours from 10:30 p.m. on April 15, bombing indiscriminately the city areas with explosive and incendiary bombs.

The main strength of the enemy air force penetrated from the directions of Sagami Bay and the southern part of the Boso Peninsula while a part of them struck the Keihin district after passing over Suruga Bay.

In small formations or singly, the B-29's flying at an altitude of 2,000 to 4,000 meters bombed various places in the Keihin district and then fled by way of Sagami Bay and the Boso Peninsula.

In view of the fact that the U.S. 21st Bomber Command in the Marianas is continuing its raids in recent days, the enemy air facilities in the Marianas are believed to have been greatly strengthened and raids over Japan Proper are expected to be further intensified.

In Tokyo, the areas where considerable damage was caused were Kamata-ku, Omori-ku, and Shinagawa-ku while parts of other wards also sustained damage.

Of the buildings, which were reduced to ashes, the principal ones were Kamata Police Station, Toriizaka and Kamata Ward Offices, Azabu Post Office, Ikegami Honmonji Temple, Teikoku Women's Medical College Hospital, Showa Pharmaceutical College.

In Kanagawa Prefecture, Yokohama and Kawasaki cities were mostly hit, suffering from the destruction of the Kawasaki Police Station, Nippon University Hospital, Maruko Hospital and Nakahara Hospital.

WANTS JAPAN 'WIPED OUT'

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 13.—Paul McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission and former U.S. High Commissioner of the Philippines, declared today that his recent statement that the "Japanese should be exterminated" represented his own opinion and not a Government policy, according to a Washington dispatch. McNutt did not explain what prompted him to make this explanation in a formal statement of a remark he made during a speech at Chattanooga, Tennessee, on April 5.

McNutt in his speech stressed the importance of the Pacific war and the necessity of giving all in the prosecution of the war against the Japanese in order to "get our fighting men back to America as soon as possible with a minimum men casualties."

"With these emotions before me," McNutt said, "I departed from my speech to express my opinions that the Japanese should be exterminated."

Japanese Destroy Four B-24 Bombers Attacking Taiwan

Domei

TAIHOKU, April 16.—In successive attacks about 15 Philippine-based enemy bombers raided Taichu and Shinchiku, bombing principally military establishments in Shinchiku and blind-bombing Shoka city. Four B-24's were downed according to confirmed reports up to the present while the losses on the Japanese side are still being investigated.

JAPANESE RELIEF VESSEL SUNK BY U.S. SUBMARINE

Awa Maru Carried Supplies to Enemy War Prisoners, Internees in South

Despite the fact that she was traveling on a safe conduct by the United States and Allied Governments, the Japanese relief ship Awa Maru, which was on its return voyage after having carried relief supplies to American and Allied prisoners of war and civilian internees in the South, was sunk by an American submarine on April 1, in the straits of Taiwan, it is learned.

Because the act constitutes a violation of international law, the Japanese Government on April 12 lodged a strong protest with the United States Government through the Swiss Government immediately upon learning of the sinking, which was belatedly announced by the United States. The Japanese Government also demanded detailed information of the circumstances surrounding the illegal sinking as well as the number and condition of the survivors and their immediate return.

The Awa Maru, 11,000 tons, had been dispatched by the Japanese Government on her relief mission in humanistic compliance with the repeated American requests to be allowed to send relief goods to American and other prisoners and internees. Promised safe conduct by the American and Allied Governments, the Awa Maru had carried the relief goods transported from the Soviet Union to the regions in the South.

She left Moji on February 17 on her outward journey and having fulfilled her humanitarian mission departed from Shonan for home on March 28. From April 1 onward, however, all contact with the vessel was lost. With all Japanese efforts to contact the vessel futile, the Government on April 10 requested information from the United States, whereupon the Washington Government announced on April 12 that an American submarine had sunk the Awa Maru.

In issuing a safe conduct for the vessel, the United States had pledged not to attack her on both her outward and homeward voyages and not to offer any interference whatever in regard to searches and stopovers. The vessel also was fully illuminated and carried clear identification marks. The last dispatch from the vessel also showed that she was strictly on her course.

In view of these facts as well as the past American violations of international law in which American submarines and aircraft have attacked Japanese hospital ships, it is held here that the Awa Maru sinking was premeditated and that the enemy has knowingly ignored his own safe conduct. Having lodged a protest with the United States Government, the Japanese Government reserves all rights of action, it is said.

PRODUCTION STRESSED

Manchoukuo to Mobilize Services Of Men Employees

In view of the urgent necessity of further strengthening the wartime structure, the Manchoukuo Government has decided to mobilize men employees who have served less than 35 years in government offices, special companies and special corps, for the purpose of employing them in the transportation of vital war materials, production of arms and construction of defense establishments, it is reported by a Hsinking dispatch to the Yomiuri-Hochi dated April 14.

Previously, along with the renovation of part of the government administrative organs, the national volunteer corps, student mobilization system and government officials' volunteer corps were set up, thus placing the country on a total war footing.

NIPPON FORCES SINK 18 ADDITIONAL SHIPS OFF OKINAWA COAST

Air and Sea Units Also Damage 13 Other Enemy Craft, I.H.Q. Announces

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
4 p.m. April 17

"1—In conjunction with the gallant fighting of the Japanese Garrison Forces on the main Okinawa Island, our Air Forces are continually attacking the enemy war vessels and task forces around the island.

"In the period between April 14 and April 16 they repeatedly launched vigorous attacks against the enemy forces inflicting tremendous losses. Meanwhile, they surprise raided the North and Central Airfields on the island setting ablaze and blasting 32 places thereby throwing the enemy into great confusion.

"Of the battle results obtained by our side in the forgoing attacks those that have become known up to the present follow:

SUNK
2 Battleships
1 Battleship or Cruiser
1 Large Warship (Believed certain to have been plane carrier)
2 Cruisers
2 Destroyers
8 Warships of Unidentified Category (Of which one is believed most certain to have been plane carrier)

DAMAGED
1 Large Warship (Believed most certain to have been plane carrier)
3 Transports
8 Warships of Unidentified Category

"The majority of the Air Forces which took part in the forgoing attack belonged to the Special Attack Corps.

"2—Our Special Attack Sea Forces on the night of April 15 attacked enemy warcraft off Katena and sank two warships of unidentified category as well as damaging another."

Enemy Prepares for Drive

Launching fierce counterattacks, our Forces have since April 12, inflicted heavy losses on the enemy forces which made powerful thrusts with artillery and infantry in the southern part of the main Okinawa Island. Although our counterattacks put a temporary stop to the enemy operations, the enemy has been preparing for further thrusts, bringing up great quantities of war materials from the rear and advancing their gun positions.

In line with these operations, the enemy fleet units are concentrating shell-fire on the Shuri area. Seizing this chance, our Forces are launching fierce sorties against the frontline enemy positions.

As announced by the Imperial Headquarters on Monday, our Forces accounted for 1,700 enemy troops killed or wounded between April 12 and 15. Adding these new results to the enemy losses of 6,700 killed or wounded from the time of their landing to April 11, we see that over 8 000 enemy troops have been put out of action. Our losses in men are small.

In the northern part of the island the fighting is increasing in intensity, with our Forces fighting fiercely and valiantly. Enemy aircraft activity on the North and Central Airfields is increasing. On April 15, Japanese Air Units attacked these air bases, as a result of which a great explosion was caused at the Central Airfield at 6:42 p.m. and two great fires were seen at the North Airfield around 7:30 p.m.

Our special attack air units meanwhile are continuing fierce attacks against the enemy fleet units around the main Okinawa Island. On April 15, six or seven battleships, over 10 cruisers and 30 destroyers were seen in this area.

By I. INOUYE
Of the Military Press Corps

CENTRAL PACIFIC BASE, April 16.—The fighting on Okinawa Island has entered a decisive stage now, with the enemy strength standing at about 4 divisions. The enemy landing forces in the Chatan area have cut across the neck to Hisaba and have increased their forces on the western and eastern coastlines to two divisions.

Launching fierce counterattacks, our Forces pressed back the spearhead of the enemy forces. On April 15 the battle-line stretched from about four kilometers south of Chatan through Oyama, Kamiyama, Kitauehara to Okuma.

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TOKYO OFFICE:
1, Rokome, Uchisaiwai-cho, Kojimachi-ku. Central P.O. Box 144, [illegible].
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Telegraphic Address: "Times Tokyo-yubin."
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TOKYO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1945

The Sinking of the Awa Maru

The United States has admitted the sinking of the Awa Maru. No ordinary wartime sinking was this, for the Awa Maru was a specially designated ship returning from a mission of mercy, of carrying comfort kits and relief goods to American prisoners of war and internees in Japanese hands in the southern regions. The mission was undertaken at the specific request of the United States Government; the mission was for the sole benefit of American nationals; the mission enjoyed special protection and immunities under international law. The Awa Maru was, moreover, proceeding under a definite guarantee of safe conduct promised by the United States Government. Notwithstanding these facts, as the mercy ship was returning home from its work of humanitarian good will, it was torpedoed by an American submarine in the dead of night and instantaneously sunk, apparently leaving but a few survivors.

The circumstances of the sinking make this incident a particularly inexcusable crime. Despite the exigencies of war, the Japanese Government had acceded to the request of the American Government and had undertaken at unusual effort to receive relief goods through appropriate channels for the benefit of American prisoners and internees. At the exercise of unusual effort, the Japanese Government had delivered and distributed these goods to American prisoners and internees scattered over a wide area throughout the South. Ever faithful to its adherence to the principles of civilized conduct, motivated by consideration of humanitarianism and charity even to enemy nationals, the Japanese Government has done everything possible to mitigate the horrors of war, and the dispatch of the Awa Maru was only the latest of the several similar missions of mercy which Japan has dispatched.

Completing its task, the Awa Maru was known to be on its way home, following the course agreed upon with the United States Government which had guaranteed safe conduct. But the failure of the ship to arrive at its return destination prompted the Japanese Government to inquire as to its whereabouts. It was only taken then that the United States Government announced that an American submarine had sunk the Awa Maru off the coast of Taiwan. Inasmuch as the Awa Maru was proceeding along a prescribed course, inasmuch as it bore distinguishing insignia and identification lights, its sinking in the middle of the night instantaneously and without a trace through an attack by an American submarine could only have been a deliberate and inexcusable act of inconceivable depravity.

There are no words fit to describe this unprincipled American action. It is an act of ruthless savagery without precedent. The immoral character of the Americans, of course, has long been known. Despite protest after protest, Japanese hospital ships continue to be deliberately attacked and sunk by American submarines and aircraft. American air raiders take special delight in raining flaming incendiaries and fiendish time bombs over wide areas of the residential districts of Japanese cities, burning and blasting to death countless thousands of innocent civilians. Shrines and palaces, places of religious veneration, treasures of irreplaceable cultural value, have been deliberately singled out as targets by the Americans on their raids of wanton vandalism. With such a record of unmatched atrocities behind them, the Americans might well have been expected to do anything.

But even the Americans, ruthless barbarians as they are, might have been expected to refrain from destroying the ship that was on a mission of mercy for the benefit of their own soldiers and citizens now prisoners or internees in Japanese hands. Particularly since the mission enjoyed the guarantee of safe conduct issued as a solemn pledge by the United States Government, it might have been expected that at least in just this one case the Americans might have exercised some restraint inasmuch as it would have been to their own benefit. But apparently the Americans are completely enwrapped in an insane fury of blood lust and bestial passion. Their plighted word, the considerations of fair play and decency, the sentiments of humanitarianism and charity, mean nothing in their mad frenzy.

The crime of the Americans is rendered all the more intolerable because of the blatant insistence with which they advertize their hypocritical pretensions to moral superiority and noble idealism. They are the first to accuse others of alleged atrocities and mistreatment of prisoners. They set themselves up as champions of humanity and justice and democracy. But in their actions, they commit such unthinkable crimes as the sinking of the Awa Maru.

As long as such lawless barbarians as the Americans run loose in this world, civilization is in peril. There can be no ordered life, no security, no progress for humanity as long as America remains unrestrained. The very existence of civilized mankind, to say nothing of its ideals and spiritual values, will remain in mortal danger until the United States is finally vanquished in the present war.

A Year Ago Today

April 18, 1944

Three planes were downed by Japanese Units at Rabaul on New Britain Island when a formation of 105 enemy planes consisting of bombers and fighters made a vain attempt to attack our position but fled in face of our furious counter-attack. Damage on the Japanese side was slight.

• • •

Without suffering damage, Japanese Units in the Buka Island area, north of Bougainville Island, downed three enemy planes out of 23 fighters and bombers which launched an unsuccessful daylight assault on our position. All the rest of the raiders were put to rout.

• • •

Twelve enemy fighter planes tried to attack Buin on Bougainville Island in the afternoon. Promptly counterattacking the enemy, Japanese Forces stationed there shot down one plane and repulsed all the others. No damage was reported on our side.

• • •

An American four-motored Consolidated B-24 giant bomber of the United States air force stationed in China which attempted to raid Hongkong from an easterly direction at 1 p.m. was attacked by a Japanese Navy fighter plane and shot down into the sea. A patrol boat cruising in the vicinity hurried to the site of the crash and captured the enemy airmen including an officer.

• • •

In a furious aerial combat, Japanese Fighter Plane Units downed two anti-Axis flying-boats in the morning when 22 four-engined flying-boats made an abortive raid on Mereyon Island. Damage on our side was extremely slight.

• • •

Ten large-sized enemy planes attempted to attack Saipan in the morning but were repulsed by the Japanese Forces there who suffered no damage.

• • •

The Swedish Government has been formally notified by the British Minister on the limitations of diplomatic privileges invoked by the British Government and thereupon deliberated upon countermeasures, it was revealed.

• • •

Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, Commander-in-Chief of the British Fleet in Ceylon, welcoming Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Commander-in-Chief of the anti-Axis Forces in Southeastern Asia and his staff from New Delhi told newspapermen that the removal of the southeastern Asia command headquarters to Ceylon "marks another stage of the organization of the offensive against Japan," it was disclosed.

Critical Period

She: "Do you know that women used cosmetics in the Middle Ages?"

He: "Why, of course, dear; that's when they needed it most!"

ABS POWERS AND WEST ASIA

Anglo-Russian Contest of Long Standing

By TOMOHIDE NAITO
(From Contemporary Japan)

VI

It is obvious that if the Ickes proposal is agreed upon, not only will it affect the Anglo-Iran Oil Company, a British concern, and the Iraq Oil Company, an Anglo-French establishment, but in addition will bring about a revolutionary change in the international relations of West Asia exercising no small amount of influence on the future of the oil industry in eastern Iran, Afghanistan and Egypt. Over and above, the construction of the proposed pipe line will automatically involve the granting of certain special rights to America for its protection and efficient management—rights which are bound to be prejudicial to the interest of West Asia and to the British and French oil concerns. How can then Britain take kindly to this proposition? She has to oppose it to see to the future security of her interests. Likewise, the Soviet Union has perforce to give it a wide berth to realize her long-cherished expectations in West Asia. The United States Government, to remove the suspicion of Britain, convened an Anglo-American oil conference in Washington, at which, judged from the information available, both parties agreed to defer a decision on the Ickes proposal to a later occasion. Still and all, it is absolutely certain that Britain will never assent to the Ickes plan in its announced form: she may accept it when it is altered to her taste. What will be the future attitude of the Soviet Union toward it will depend on how best her West Asia policy operates. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union's firm attitude toward the Iranian oil question should not be overlooked and, at the same time, it must be noted that America's West Asia oil drive has stimulated the triangular contest. In September last, the Iranian Government decided not to grant new oil concessions to any Power during the war period; yet toward the end of the same month a Soviet mission arrived in Teheran with the object of exploring means and avenues for getting oil concessions in northern Iran, but the Iranian Government declined to enter into negotiations with it on the ground of its previously announced decision. Then on November 1 the American Government stated that it accepts the decision of the Iranian Government. On the other hand, Richard Law, Under-secretary of Foreign Affairs, speaking on behalf of Foreign Secretary Eden at the House of Commons explained that Britain had no desire to stand in the way of Soviet Russia's acquiring oil concessions in Iran, thereby implying that Britain was sympathetic toward the Kremlin's Iranian oil policy. It appears that the Soviet Government took exception of the decision of the Iranian Government, and through the press ventilated its grievances. Under the circumstances it was not strange that a new Iranian Cabinet come to be organized on November 25 and the Soviet Government immediately expressed its wish that the new Ministry would be friendly toward it.

Antagonism Crops Up

An antithesis, if not antagonism, has cropped up among the ABS Powers in connection with the proposed formation of a pan-Arab federation, the age-old aspiration of the diverse Arab peoples. Egypt and Iraq are taking the lead in this regard. It will be recalled that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden a year ago advised Pasha Nahas, then Egyptian Premier, to accelerate the formation of a pan-Arab federation, foreseeing the eventual establishment of such an organization and desiring to ameliorate the anti-British attitude in the Arab countries. In response, Pasha Nahas conferred with Nuri Said, then Premier of Iraq, and other leaders of the Arab States, as a result of which the pan-Arab movement made a steady headway and it is now being continued. Britain is aware that a pan-Arab federation will insure the security of her interests in West Asia. That is why she has extended formal recognition to the Lebanon Republic and is showing sympathy toward the independence of Palestine, knowing full well that Zionist claims are unreasonable. In America, however, where Jewish influence is rather strong, the cause of the Jews in Palestine is receiving keener attention than that of the Arabs, of whom the majority of the American people have very little knowledge. As against this, the American authorities in West Asia, who are working hard to actualize American penetration, are favoring the Jews in their strife with the Arabs and are trying to spike the rise of a pan-Arab federation. As for the Soviet Union, she is following an independent stand toward the Palestine question, as well as toward the formation of a pan-Arab federation with appeasement as the keynote, and thus she is enhancing her popularity with the different Arab peoples. The 80,000,000 Moslems of India and the Mohammedans of the Sudan, Ethiopia and northern Africa are all sympathetic to the formation of a pan-Arab federation. Such an agreement of inclination has made pan-Arabianism the most important of all the current issues involving West Asia.

The facts of history reveal that the Anglo-Russian contest for supremacy in West Asia is, to say the least, a long-standing one. During the late World War and immediately after it, the United States for the first time directed her attention to West Asia almost in the role of a bystander. But a few years before the ensuance of the present global conflict she became particularly interested in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran, an attitude which has now become on the whole pronounced. America has now formulated a West Asia policy, because she has become optimistically conscious of her future superior position in the world. Her West Asia policy, designed to mark off an American sphere of influence, cannot in any wise be relished either by the Soviet Union or by Britain, though the latter, being burdened with unavoidable entanglements and complications, has been constrained to maintain a superficial joint front with the United States. While the Anglo-American common front savors of expediency on the one hand and of temporization on the other, the West Asia policy of the Soviet Union is virile and conditioned to suit the need of the times. The contest among the ABS Powers to gain an upperhand in West Asia, it is more than palpable, has reached such proportions that they have become immoderately anxious to keep track of each other's moves either covertly or overtly.

(End)

REAPPRAISAL OF NANKING TREATY ON OPIUM TRADE

Despite Conclusion of This Pact British Showed No Intention to Abide by Its Terms

By TOSHIO UYEDA
Former Professor of Toa Dobun Shoin

I

It is the opinion of many writers that the main cause of the Opium War was Britain's imposition of opium on China and her ambitions to protect her opium trade, instead of being, as held by some, Britain's attempt to establish the right of equality in China. I have myself supported this former view in my treatise on the Opium War. (Contributed to the magazine on International Law and Diplomacy). It is a matter of surprise, therefore, that the Nanking Treaty which was concluded between Britain and China at the conclusion of the Opium War only provided for the payment of an indemnity for the opium delivered to the Canton authorities and not refered in the least to the opium problem. It is the purpose of the present article to dwell on this matter by going into the intentions of both Britain and China at that time.

In studying the attitude of Britain, it will be seen that Britain was not willing to abandon her profit-making opium trade. This is clear from the very fact that she waged the war in order to protect this trade. This policy of giving protection to her opium trade did not change even after the war. While admitting that opium was a Chinese contraband and an injurious drug for the Chinese, Britain continued to pursue her profit-making trade in opium and tried to legalize the trade by imposing a high tax on opium on the ground that the prohibition of opium trade was an impossibility. (A. Sargent: Anglo-Chinese Commerce and Diplomacy, p. 87). Britain therein displayed her policy of exploitation and of disregarding the interests of other countries. This is also shown by the following words of British authorities regarding the same matter.

Treaty Was Sought

For instance, Lord Palmerstone ordered Captain Elliot as early as in the spring of 1841 "to conclude some kind of treaty with China in order to export opium to China as a lawful commodity." But he advised Captain Elliot not to present this policy as a demand nor to bring any pressure on China in realizing it. (Wen Tsao-wu, The Chinese opium Question in British Opinion and Action, p. 18, Sargent, op. cit. p. 87). Lord Palmerstone also gave an instruction to the following effect to Sir H. Pottinger when the latter went to China as British representative on May 31, 1841:

"The British Government does not present any demand on this problem (the opium trade), because we have no right to present such a demand. The Chinese Government have the perfect right to prohibit the importation of opium at will. British subjects who shall engage in the trading of contrabands should hold themselves accountable for its consequences. However, it is desirable that you utilize every opportunity to make the Chinese envoy realize and through him to let the Chinese Government know that to legalize by normal taxation the opium trade which is difficult of prohibiting by revising the Chinese law which will be of great benefit to the Chinese Government."

As seen by the foregoing portion of the instructions given by Lord Palmerstone, the British had no intention from the very beginning to pledge the prohibition of opium trade; on the contrary, their intention was to legalize it. But there was no reason that such a desire could be accepted by China; and this is why no provision was inserted in the Nanking Treaty.

But even after the conclusion of the Nanking Treaty, Britain continued to entertain its desire to legalize opium trade and its envoy repeated his attempt along this line of endeavors. Upon undertaking negotiations with the Chinese side regarding details on trade following the conclusion of the Nanking Treaty, Sir H. Pottinger tried to hear the opinion of British merchants in Macao by sending them letters. In his letter to one of them written under date of December 28, 1842, he expressed his hope regarding the opening of opium trade, after revealing to him that no mention of such a trade was made in the Nanking Treaty. Stated this letter: "At present, it is sufficient to say that I did not overlook the problem of opium trade. Although I have only little influence, I entertain the hope of persuading the Emperor to recognize opium trade by means of barter. (Chinese Repository, XII, p.35). Moreover, it is noteworthy that in his negotiations over the provisions of a trade treaty with China, Pottinger promised in his letter under date of April 13, 1843, that he would cooperate with the Chinese authorities in the suppression of "the large scale smuggling and tariff evasion carried on at Canton under the tacit permission of customs officers"; but at the same time he evaded his responsibility for the matter in the following language: "I have repeatedly explained to the Chinese side that the prohibition of smuggling depends on the activities and moral integrity of the Chinese customs officials and has no concern with British officials, subjects or ships. Thus, much as I regret such a dishonorable act, its remedy does not lie within my own powers." (Chinese Repository, XII, pp. 271-2).

Showed Indifference

When the promulgation of the General Regulations concerning Five Open Ports was made on July 22, 1843, Pottinger made a communication to the Chinese Commissioner that he was given power by his home country to prohibit the transportation of opium through Hongkong and its waters. At the same time, he showed his indifferent attitude toward the prohibition of opium trade by issuing a warning in which he stated that the Chinese side should not expect the British authorities to impose the demands of Chinese law on British subjects or British ships, although there is a danger of smuggling as a result of thus restricting opium trade; that no restraint should be made on the person of British subjects because of their part in opium smuggling; and that actions against smuggling must be made only on ships and cargo. (H.B. Morse, The International Relations of the Chinese Empire, I.p 316). Again, he issued a notice to the British traders under date of August 1, 1843, declaring that, although opium was not included in the list of items subject to a 5 per cent ad valorem duty, nor included among the contrabands, since opium trade is held as unlawful and prohibited by Chinese law and by government notices, all those engaged in opium trade shall hold themselves responsible for its risks and even if such persons are British subjects, they will not be permitted to receive the support or protection of the British authorities. (Proclamation by Sir H Pottinger regarding opium trade, August 1, 1843—Chinese Repository, XII, p. 446.) These are the contentions of Pottinger as they appear in the official documents. But his ideas of opium trade are best shown by the following quotation from his Private Conversation. (Captain G.G. Loch, Closing Events of the Campaign in China, p. 173). When asked why Britain did not prohibit the cultivation of the poppy in her territory and thereby exterminate opium trade which is a great calamity for mankind, he replied to the following effect:

"Such a step would not be permitted by our Constitution. Even if Britain exercised all possible control on her subjects, so long as opium trade concerns Chinese, the evils of opium would never be prevented. Moreover, such an act of prohibition by Britain would only result in placing the opium market in the hands of other nations. Whether or not opium will be eradicated depends entirely on the responsibility of the Chinese. If the Chinese become upright and abandon their evil habit and if the Chinese officials become pure in their morality and obey their national law, the importation of opium will be altogether stopped. Whether the cultivation of the poppy in our British territory will prosper or decline rests on the Chinese, because more than one-half of opium produced in our territory goes to China. But if the evil habit of using opium has become ineradicable and no State power is capable of putting an end to opium smoking, the Chinese addicts will get hold of opium despite all legal restrictions. Thus, it would be a much better policy to legalize the importation of opium at once in order to secure the cooperation of wealthy Chinese and officials, their obstruction will end and smuggling will be greatly restricted."

(To Be Concluded)

News and Views

India's Claim

Reuter carries a report that a certain Indian connected with the New York University, Count Richard Coudenhove Kalergi by name, has presented to Edward Stettinius, the United States Secretary of State, a sensational memorandum claiming that India be given the status of a permanent delegation in the Security Council. As an Indian voice, it has more the merit of being entertaining because fantastic.

But Count Coudenhove has a worthy reason of his own. Contending that the Dumbarton Oaks plan can be most effectively substantiated when the world is divided into six regional groups, the count says, "In view of India's political geographic importance, she should become the head of one of these regional groups, and receive a permanent seat in the Council." And the six regional groups and their delegation meant by him are: The United States representing the Pan-American group; Britain, the British Commonwealth; the Central Soviet Republic, the Soviet Union; France, Europe; Chungking, East Asia; and India, Middle East.

The concept of the regional spheres of cooperation and reciprocity as distinct from that of forceful domination over the world by any one power or a group of powers, a scheme being pursued by America and Britain, is unquestionably sound as well as more in keeping with practicality. It is in fact the only form of peace security which was being seriously considered by those concerned with the subject since and including H. G. Wells. The idea is known to have once attracted Churchill and Smuts when they set out to build some sort of permanent peace mechanism to suit their surrounding reality. They have the record of having strangely contradicted their reputation of confirmed fanatics of imperialism by upholding regionalism, a fact serving more as a compliment to the theory itself than to themselves.

Count Kalergi's proposal based on this concept can be an effective amendment to the Dumbarton Oaks plan; there is no reason why we or anybody should not hail it as an idea as such, inasmuch as we all inevitably accept obvious truism. But truism can sometimes be only entertaining without being convincing. The case of Count Kalergi is something like that. The fact that his is an Indian voice is the reason. His logic that India should be a permanent regional delegate because India's geographic and political position is important calls more attention to India's international status or the absence of it. To make of a state that is not a state or short of a state, the standing representative of other states in the given region is something no common sense will comprehend, much less accept.

The long protracted struggle of India against Britain has not as yet won a semblance of freedom or independence for itself. In the international status, it does not equal even that of Egypt and Iraq, which have already succeeded in acquiring sovereign independence, however nominal. Rather than rising, India's feet of clay are sinking deeper than ever into muddy enslavement under the British whip.

Of all regions of the world, that a voice claiming a seat among the six major delegations of the world side by side with America and Britain should come from India, is an illogicality obvious even to kindergarten intelligence. The first thing that India has to do to bless herself is to put her own house in order.

PRESS COMMENTS

Tuesday, April 17

IMPORTANT POINT OF WAR SITUATION

MAINICHI—Due to our valiant intercepting attacks, the enemy suffered serious losses on the night of April 13 when he raided Tokyo with some 170 B-29's. That he again raided Tokyo on the night of April 15 with some 200 B-29's can be interpreted in a twofold way. One is that the enemy air base in the Marianas has become better equipped; the other is that by repeated air raids the enemy is trying to minimize the effects of Roosevelt's death on America's military and political situations. It also suggests that the fighting will of the American people, heretofore guided by the provocator of the second World War, has not waned.

However, the main aim of the foe is the "obliteration of Japan." The enemy's first intent is to reduce Tokyo to ashes, all his raids on the metropolis being conducted on this line. He has also committed the outrage of bombing the Imperial Palace and the Meiji Shrine on a systematic basis, by which acts he seems to have sought to bring about some psychological effects on our people.

However, whatever device and whatever violence the enemy may attempt it will have no effect on us at all. Indeed, the spirit of protecting the Imperial Land is increasing in proportion to the increase of the enemy's outrages and our determination to crush the foe is stronger than ever.

The Americans, who are addicted to utilitarianism and who depend on a campaign based on the volume of materials, are unable to understand the spiritual power of the Japanese people. Major-General Curtis Lemay's plan of "wiping out" Tokyo may have certain concrete results, but viewed from a broader standpoint of war prosecution, it is only serving to strengthen our people's fighting power.

We need not stress that the military, Government and civilians should alike put forth their best endeavors to minimize the losses resulting from the enemy raids. Judging from a broad war situation, the most important matter of the moment is to annihilate the foe in the Okinawas, that is, to smash the enemy's Army, Navy and Air strength in that area and thus force a turn in the war situation. We should not be occupied altogether with the enemy's bombing of our cities, a tactic intended by the enemy to disturb our rear, and should not commit the folly of losing sight of the important point in the war situation. We must cooperate with our officers and men on the front and concentrate our full efforts on the most important point of decimating the enemy in the Okinawas.

Kitty, Kitty

Friendly Susie: "Had you heard that Jane is engaged to an X-ray specialist?"

Jealous Fannie: "Well, she's lucky. Nobody else could see anything in her."

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Advertisements or replies to the same by POSTCARD, should be TYPEWRITTEN and accompanied by the nationality, name and address of the sender in Japanese.

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